

**LYRA AMERICANA;
HYMNS OF PRAISE
AND FAITH, FROM
AMERICAN POETS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649640737

Lyra Americana; Hymns of Praise and Faith, from American Poets by Various

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VARIOUS

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Lyra Americana.



LYRA **A**MERICANA:

Hymns of Praise and Faith,

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London:

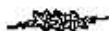
THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,
56, PATERNOSTER ROW;
69, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD; AND 164, PICCADILLY.

1865.

147. 9. 19.



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PREFACE.



TWO centuries and a half ago, "holy Mr. Herbert" sadly meditating, in his Bemerton Parsonage, on the decay of piety throughout our country, looked hopefully across the Atlantic to the New England just coming into existence on the shores of the Western hemisphere, and wrote—

"Religion stands on tiptoe in our land,
Ready to pass to the American strand."

His forebodings for Britain have not been fulfilled. The "candlestick" is not "removed out of his place." We are not abandoned to the darkness and death which our sins have so often deserved. But America has received what we have not lost, in far larger measure than Herbert could have anticipated. At the time he wrote, only two feeble English settlements had been formed on that vast continent, where our language and race